Impact of Internet Telephony

2657. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study of the impact of Internet Telephony and obtained information from developed countries where these services have already been introduced;

(b) if so, whether according to this study the share of Internet Telephony in total telephone services in advanced countries does not exceed five to seven per cent; and

(c) whether Government propose to implement the recommendations received from TRAI without any further delay and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the report of International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Internet Protocol (IP) Telephony traffic as percentage of total international trade has been increasing steadily from 0.2% in 1998 to 5.5.% in 2001.

(c) Government has already accepted the recommendations of TRAI on opening up of Internet Telephony on 15.3.2002 and the guidelines for issue of permission to offer Internet Telephony Service were issued on 21.3.2002.